

The military seems to be determined to make our point for us. The current military system of justice is incapable of meting out justice in an impartial and effective way.

When Sinclair was challenged by his staff for his conduct and remarks towards women, the general replied:

I'm the general. I'll say whatever [expletive deleted] I want.

You know, he is right. In the military, misogynous attitudes and conduct, even violent crimes against women, are condoned and, at times, even celebrated.

In 2010, a skit was performed for General Sinclair's benefit, where a soldier wore a wig and dressed as a female officer and offered to perform oral sex for the general. This skit was performed in front of the general's wife and more than 500 people; yet this gross performance of General Sinclair's sexual misconduct was no cause for concern at the time.

Until these cases are taken out of the chain of command, the reality and perception will continue to be that the military justice system is tainted under command influence and is inherently unjust.

The American people look at how this case was handled and see that a commanding officer without legal expertise and a built-in conflict of interest is not competent to prosecute serious crimes.

It should now be clear to everyone in Congress that the military is incapable of holding perpetrators accountable. It is our duty to reform the system which we created in the first place, not the commanders whose legal training and built-in conflicts of interest have proven to be so effective.

This case is an embarrassment to the military; and, frankly, it is an embarrassment to Congress. When will we be willing to say "enough" and do our duty to protect our servicemembers from predators like General Sinclair?

□ 1045

#### IMMIGRATION REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. To my colleagues, I say good morning.

Madam Speaker, it is good to be an American, and it is good to have the opportunity to celebrate the greatest democracy in the world. That is why I stand today and join my Democratic colleagues as they appear on the east steps in calling all colleagues to stand under the bright shining Sun to celebrate that democracy, for, today, Democrats will stand united, calling upon our Republican friends to push for a vote on comprehensive, reasonable, sensible immigration reform.

I stand with these icons:

Remember always that all of us—that you and I especially—are descendants from immigrants and revolutionists—President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

The land flourished because it was fed from so many sources, because it was nourished by so many cultures and traditions and people—President Lyndon Baines Johnson.

Everywhere immigrants have enriched and strengthened the fabric of American life—President John F. Kennedy.

He never strayed away from his strong Irish heritage. Then, of course, in Women's History Month:

I am a beneficiary of the American people's generosity, and I hope we can have comprehensive immigration legislation that allows this country to continue to be enriched by those who were not born here—former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

SHEILA JACKSON LEE, a descendant of Jamaican immigrants. My grandmother and grandfather came by way of the Panama Canal. Today, I can go to the Panama Canal and see my grandfather's name X'd there, for he worked with his hands to build the Panama Canal. Then the family traveled with small suitcases to South Carolina and, ultimately, made a life in this great Nation. What a privilege it is to serve in this body as a descendant, as someone who has recent immigrant grandparents who came to this Nation for opportunity.

Finally, let me offer these thoughts through this quote:

This issue has been around for too long. A comprehensive approach is long overdue, and I am confident that the President, myself, and others can find the common ground to take care of this issue once and for all—House Speaker John Boehner.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you today to stand with those eloquent and important Americans, Presidents and Secretaries of State who have indicated that we are better for the immigrant opportunities that we have been given. Mr. BOEHNER, we want a vote now.

As you look, you will see a picture of Leader PELOSI and of myself and of my colleague from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL). We are not important, but the children are who are here, who are diverse in their understanding of cultural diversity. Madam Speaker, these children speak Chinese and Spanish. They are 2 years old and 3 years old and 4 years old. They are in the Barbara Jordan International Child Care Center. We know we need child care, and they understand the richness of what happens with diversity.

Let me share with you very briefly that there are 16.4 percent of Texans who are foreign born: 42 percent are Latino or Asian; 87 percent of children with immigrant parents are U.S. citizens, and 75 percent of those children are English fluent. These are individuals who want to contribute to America. Asian-owned businesses in Texas create \$40.2 billion in revenue, and Latino-owned create \$61.9 billion in revenue from their businesses.

Here are the results of deporting rather than putting forward comprehensive immigration reform legislation, not for people who want to do you harm but who want to do you good. I am glad that H.R. 1417 is in the bill

that we want to vote on. That is the bipartisan Homeland Security bill that I helped write that came out in a bipartisan manner, but this is what America will do to herself without comprehensive immigration reform:

We will lose, in wages, \$33.2 billion if you deport every person who is non-status. In tax revenue, you will lose \$14.5 billion. In jobs creation, you will lose \$77.7 billion in the decrease of gross State product. This is from the State of Texas alone.

So, in actuality, comprehensive immigration reform creates jobs, and it creates opportunities. But do you know what? It is the right thing to do.

As a young child, I looked to the Statue of Liberty for such inspiration. I remember school trips of my going to the Statue of Liberty, and I am reminded of that extending arm that said it welcomes those who are worn and those who are forlorn. It welcomes them to the greatest democracy in the world.

Give us a vote right now. We want to vote for comprehensive immigration reform. We want these children to grow up in a democracy that is befitting of this great Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

#### IMMIGRATION REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, as I have mentioned a few times when I have come to the floor in the last 14 months now, I am a member of the freshman class, elected in 2012. I am proud of that fact. I am proud of it for several reasons, but one of the things that is significant about this class, particularly on our side of the aisle here as Democrats, is that it is the most diverse group of individuals ever elected to the United States Congress in a single class. In fact, its diversity is such that it is made up of a majority of minorities, women, and LGBT members—a majority minority class. Its diversity gives us tremendous strength. As I sit with my colleagues, it is amazing to me the vast perspectives that we bring, and I think it has brought to us much better opportunity and a much better ability to see the needs of this country and to address them.

It is the diversity of this Congress, and especially of this Congress elected in 2012, that is its principal strength. I say that because it is my view that it is the diversity of our Nation that is our greatest strength. What makes America exceptional is its diversity, and that diversity is the result of a culture and of values that have been welcoming to people from all corners of the world to come here and make the U.S. home—to build businesses, to bring their families, to invest in community—and to be a part of something that we have never seen before on the